

PICKLES

4-131

BT Yahoo! Home Mail More

Hi, Dale Sign Out All-New Mail Help



Search

WEB SEARCH

i.want



Mail

Contacts

Calendar

Notepad

Mobile Mail Options

Check Mail

New

Mail Search

Folders

Inbox (45)

Drafts (115)

Sent

Spam (125) [Empty]

Trash [Empty]

My Photos

My Attachments

Previous | [Next](#) | [Back to Messages](#)

[Mark as Unread](#) | [Print](#)

Delete Reply Forward Spam Move...

[British Roma] Ministers to create new planning powers to tackle illegal traveller sites

Sunday, 12 December, 2010 5:48

From: "John O" <mojuk@mojuk.org.uk>

To: British_Roma@yahoogroups.com

Chat

I am

Offline

My Folders [Add - Edit]

LGO RE CONSTA...



Ministers to create new planning powers to tackle illegal traveller sites

[Sunday Telegraph, Sunday 12th December 2010](#)

Ministers are to hand down new powers to local authorities aimed at tackling illegal traveller sites.

Ministers to create new planning powers to tackle illegal traveller sites

The aim is to stop travellers 'developing' camps overnight.

The coalition's long-awaited Localism Bill, to be published tomorrow, will include new measures, including increased fines, aimed at stopping travellers "developing" camps overnight then thwarting enforcement officers by tying councils up in red tape.

It will also tackle people who construct "secret" homes - sometimes hidden by bales of straw or masquerading as barns - to avoid planning law.

Eric Pickles, the Communities Secretary, said: "It is simply not fair that people get away with creeping in at night to set up illegal encampments or secretly constructing illegal homes to the detriment of their law-abiding neighbours."

Sources at Mr Pickles's Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) said one of the measures in the Bill would bring in a ban on retrospective planning permission for unauthorised traveller sites which were subject to enforcement proceedings.

In future, applicants will have to decide whether to apply for retrospective planning permission or appeal an enforcement notice - but could not do both. Sources said the move was targeted at groups of travellers who moved quickly on to a site and tarmacked a road - then applied for retrospective planning permission at the same time as appealing against an enforcement notice. One added: "This often buys the applicant more time by paralysing the system with multiple issues."

In addition, the maximum penalty which can be imposed by magistrates for deliberately ignoring planning laws is to increase from £1,000 to £2,500 - in another Localism Bill move.

Separately from the Bill, Mr Pickles is to study proposals to charge higher fees for retrospective planning applications to try to ensure they become a greater deterrent.

Councils will also be encouraged to develop "local enforcement plans" which set out their own enforcement policies and priorities, and will have more freedom to decide which cases to pursue and which not to - with a reduction in enforcement guidance.

Meanwhile an expanded national database of prosecutions for all planning offences will be brought in so "persistent offenders" will be able to be better targeted.

Crackdowns on travellers have been a "no-go" area for the Conservatives for years after outspoken attacks on gipsies by Michael Howard, the former Tory leader, saw him branded an extremist and were thought to have cost the party votes in the 2005 general election.

Mr Howard was forced to claim he was "not racist" and was simply "standing up for the correct values" after a storm of criticism over his plans to criminalise trespass by travellers.

Mr Pickles's proposals do not go as far, but he added: "The majority of people are happy to abide by planning laws and we will not sit back and allow people to illegally building a home or dishonestly bypass the planning system.

"The system must be fair and these new powers will give councils real teeth to crack down on offenders so everyone is on an equal footing and those who play by the rules are protected."

The Localism Bill will also extend time limits on tackling people who deliberately mislead planners by allowing councils a year longer to apply to magistrates for a Planning Enforcement Order where they believe someone has deliberately tried to conceal illegal building or development. The current time limit is four years.

Sources said it was important to tackle a phenomenon which has seen people building extensive homes and disguising them behind bales or siting them within existing barns.

The Bill, as The Sunday Telegraph revealed last weekend, will give greater freedom to home owners to carry out major home improvements, including extensions, alterations and new drives on existing properties, without the need for planning permission.

It is also expected to pave the way for elected mayors in the 12 largest cities outside London. Delayed by internal Whitehall wrangling, it was scheduled for last Thursday but will finally emerge tomorrow.

--

[Reply to sender](#) | [Reply to group](#) | [Reply via web post](#) | [Start a New Topic](#)
[Messages in this topic \(1\)](#)

RECENT ACTIVITY:

[Visit Your Group](#)

YAHOO! GROUPS

[Switch to: Text-Only](#) • [Daily Digest](#) • [Unsubscribe](#) • [Terms of Use](#)

[Delete](#) [Reply](#) [Forward](#) [Spam](#) [Move...](#)

[Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Back to Messages](#)

[Select Message Encoding](#)

| [Full Headers](#)

[Check Mail](#) **New**

Mail Search

Copyright © 2010 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Help](#)